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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/777,921	02/07/2001	Gennady Merkulov	CL001103	6182

25748 7590 06/05/2002

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EXAMINER

ULM, JOHN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1646

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2002

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/777,921

Applicant(s)

Merkulov et al.

Examiner

John Ulm

Art Unit

1646



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 1-23 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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Claims 1 to 23 are pending in the instant application.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1, 2, 20 and 21, drawn to an isolated peptide, classified in class 530, subclass 350.
- II. Claim 3, drawn to an antibody, classified in class 530, subclass 388.22.
- III. Claims 4 to 6, 8 to 11, 22 and 23, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid and method of use, classified in class 435, subclass 69.1.
- IV. Claim 7, drawn to a transgenic animal, classified in class 800, subclass 2.
- V. Claim 12, drawn to an assay which employs a "detection agent" of unspecified constitution, classification undeterminable.
- VI. Claim 13, drawn to a method of detecting a nucleic acid in a sample, classified in class 435, subclass 6.
- VII. Claims 14 and 16, drawn to a binding assay employing a peptide, classified in class 436, subclass 501.
- VIII. Claims 15 and 19, drawn to a binding assay employing a cell, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1.
- IX. Claim 17, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising an agent of unspecified constitution, classification undeterminable.
- X. Claim 18, drawn to a method of treatment by administering an agent of unspecified constitution, classification undeterminable.

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The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:

The peptide of invention I, the antibody of invention II, the nucleic acid of invention III, the transgenic animal of invention IV, and the “agent” of unspecified constitution of invention IX are five different compounds and compositions each of which can be made and used without the others. Lack of unity is shown by the fact that these five compositions lack a common utility which is based upon a common structural feature or combination of features disclosed as a basis for that utility and which is lacking from the prior art.

The nucleic acid of invention III is related to each of inventions VI and VIII as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the binding assay of invention VIII and the nucleic acid detection method of invention VI are materially different because they achieve different objectives by employing different steps and because they have different modes of operation.

The agent of invention IX is related to each of inventions V and X as product and process of use. Distinctness is shown by the fact that the detection method of invention V and the method of treatment that is invention X are materially different because they have different modes of operation to achieve different objectives.

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The protein of invention I is related to the process of invention VII as product and process of use. They are distinct because the protein of invention I can be employed as an immunogen to elicit the production of an antibody thereto, which is a process that is materially different from the binding assay of invention VII.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

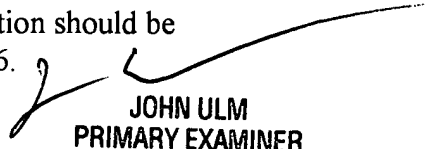
Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John D. Ulm whose telephone number is (703) 308-4008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne Eyler can be reached at (703) 308-6564.

Official papers filed by fax should be directed to (703) 308-4242 or (703) 872-9306. Official responses under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 should be directed to (703) 872-9307.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.


JOHN ULM
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1800